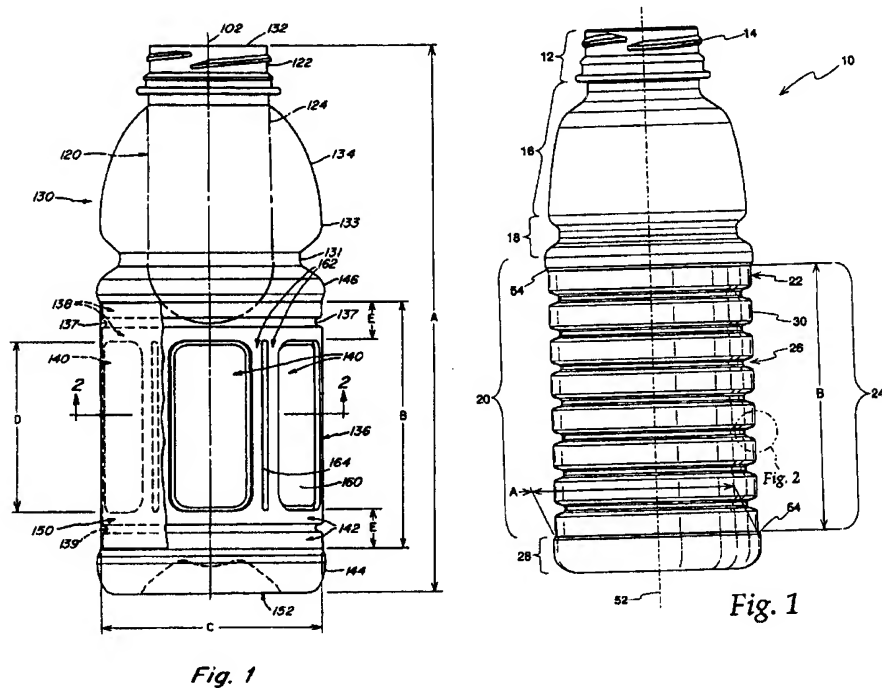


As agreed during the personal interview, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a label that extends above the annular groove portion, as recited in claim 1. Krishnakumar's label is below the radial hoop 131 (annular groove portion), Rashid's label is below the annular groove 18 (annular groove portion), and Itaba fails to disclose an annular groove portion. Krishnakumar '503's Fig. 1 (left) and Rashid's Fig. 1 (right) is provided below in order to better explain this position.



As discussed during the personal interview, by doing a side-by-side comparison of the figures, it is clear that both references disclose an annular groove portion (Krishnakumar '503's radial hoop 131 and Rashid's annular groove 18). Each reference also places the label below the annular groove portion (Krishnakumar '503's label is below the radial hoop 131 and Rashid's label is below the annular groove 18). Therefore, even if you combine the references, a feature is missing (a label that extends above the annular groove portion) and that feature would not otherwise have been obvious.

The Examiner asserts that Rashid's top rib 26 is an annular groove portion from which the label extends above on page 5 of the Office Action. As agreed during the personal interview, it is not reasonable to assert that Rashid's top rib 26 is the recited annular groove portion when Rashid's entire label panel portion 24 (which includes the top rib 26) is clearly the same as Krishnakumar '503's panel section 136 based on a side-by-side comparison of the above figures. In addition, Rashid's **annular groove** 18 corresponds to the recited **annular groove** portion.

The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1 and for the additional features that they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

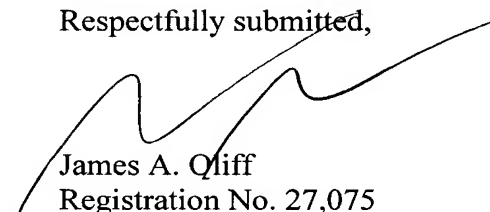
Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Krishnakumar '503 in view of Itaba, Rashid and U.S. 4,976,798 to Hoffman, claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Krishnakumar '503 in view of Itaba, Rashid and U.S. 5,178,289 to Krishnakumar (Krishnakumar '289), claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Krishnakumar '503 in view of Itaba, Rashid, Krishnakumar '289 and Hoffman, and claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Krishnakumar '503 in view of Itaba, Rashid and U.S. 2001/0038204 to Nojima. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the other applied references overcome the deficiencies of Krishnakumar '503, Itaba and Rashid as applied to claim 1. The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1 and for the additional features that they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/ssh

Date: April 13, 2011

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

| |
|---|
| <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry of this filing; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p> |
|---|